2017–20 DEPARTMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: 2018–19 UPDATE

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

Public Health Agency of Canada | Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS THROUGH LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, INNOVATION AND ACTION IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

—Public Health Agency of Canada

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Context for the Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy **1**

Section 2: Sustainable Development in the Public Health Agency of Canada **1**

Section 3: Commitments for the Public Health Agency of Canada **5**

Low-Carbon Government: 5

Effective Action on Climate Change 14

Clean Drinking Water 16

Section 4: Integrating Sustainable Development **18**

Section 1: Context for the Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy

The 2016–19 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the Federal Sustainable Development Act (the Act). In keeping with the objectives of the Act to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations into decision-making, and make such decisions more transparent and accountable to Parliament, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) supports reaching goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in this 2018–19 update to the Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS).

Section 2: Sustainable Development in the Public Health Agency of Canada

PHAC is committed to sustainable development and contributes to the FSDS by delivering on its core vision of healthy Canadians and communities in a healthier world. PHAC strives to integrate environmental, economic and social factors into decision-making in order to derive added benefits or to avoid or mitigate negative impacts on human health for both present and future generations.

PHAC's sustainable development vision is guided by the following principles:

- Strengthen Canada's capacity to protect and improve the health of Canadians;
- Build an effective public health system that enables Canadians to achieve better health and well-being in their daily lives by promoting good health, helping prevent chronic diseases and injury, and protecting Canadians from infectious diseases and other threats to their health; and
- Reduce health disparities between the most advantaged and disadvantaged Canadians.

PHAC's DSDS supports achieving three of the thirteen long-term goals identified in the FSDS:

- Low-carbon government
- Effective action on climate change
- Clean drinking water

FSDS Goal: Low-carbon government – The Government of Canada is committed to becoming a leader on climate change. The federal government has the opportunity to support the transition to a low-carbon economy through various means. As one example, PHAC continues to take steps to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and operations to improve overall environmental performance of departmental-owned buildings. PHAC also engages in green procurement, where, for instance, environmental considerations are incorporated into the development of commonly used green procurement instruments. These are just some

examples of how PHAC is contributing to the goal of low-carbon government by making its operations more sustainable.

FSDS Goal: Effective action on climate change – Climate change is a critical global problem that could affect future generations' ability to meet their basic needs. Its effects are already being felt across Canada – for example, rising sea levels that threaten coastal communities, more frequent and severe wildfires and pest outbreaks, and extreme weather events such as storms and heatwaves. Adaptation is key in addressing climate change, and is about making smart, informed, and forward-looking decisions. Effective adaptation measures can save lives, minimize damages, and lower costs over the long term for individuals, businesses, organizations, and governments. PHAC's contribution to this goal involves implementation of adaptation measures, including contributing to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which will put Canada on the path to meeting its 2030 target and taking action on adaptation.

FSDS Goal: Clean drinking water – Clean drinking water is essential for health, while polluted water can cause serious illness due to bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants. PHAC is committed to providing all Canadians with access to safe drinking water while on conveyances. Through the implementation of the Potable Water Regulations, PHAC will continue to protect the health and safety of travelling Canadians by safeguarding drinking water supplies.

Section 3 outlines PHAC's specific commitments in support of the above-noted FSDS goals.

PHAC will provide periodic updates on its efforts through the FSDS e-strategy and more detailed updates and progress reports through departmental planning and reporting processes. This includes annual reports on DSDS progress through the PHAC Departmental Results Report, and updates to the DSDS content through the PHAC Departmental Plan, as appropriate. This document is comprised of the 2017–20 DSDS, along with a 2018–19 update.

In this 2018–19 update, changes have been made to PHAC's contributions to the goal of Low Carbon Government. These updates are minor and include removing contributions that have been completed, and specifying contributions that have transitioned into ongoing work.

Section 3: Commitments for the Public Health Agency of Canada

Low-Carbon Government: The Government of Canada leads by example by making its operations low-carbon
Responsible Minister: All ministers

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
Reduce GHG emissions from federal government buildings and fleets by 40% below 2005 levels by 2030, with an aspiration to achieve this reduction by 2025.	Improve the energy efficiency of our buildings/operations	Adopt and maintain approaches and activities that reduce Health Canada's and the Public Health Agency of Canada's energy use, where operationally feasible, and improve overall environmental performance of departmental-owned buildings. The objective being 'greener' buildings that require less	Actions that reduce the demand for energy or switch to cleaner sources of energy will lead to reductions in GHGs.	**Performance Indicator** All applicable existing custodial building fit-ups, refits, major investments and new construction projects will have achieved an industry-recognized level of high-environmental performance. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, real property managers and functional heads responsible for new construction, leases or existing building operations will have clauses	Internal Service 8 (IS8) – Real Property Services

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
		energy to operate, reduce emissions and pollutants, conserve water, generate less solid waste and have decreased operation and maintenance costs.		related to environmental considerations incorporated in their performance agreements. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, PHAC will have reduced GHG emissions from facilities by 5% from the 2013–14 baseline and report on the following: • energy use intensity (GJ/m^2); • GHG emission intensity by floor space (CO_2eq/m^2); and • density of use (FTE/m2).[1]	
	Modernize our fleet	• Support the reduction of energy use in	Actions that reduce the amount of fuel consumed for fleet	**Starting Point** In 2005–06, GHG emissions from Health Canada and the	Internal Service 8 (IS8) – Real

[1] Please note that in the 2017–20 DSDS document originally tabled in October 2017, this bullet was included as part of the preceding bullet. This has been resolved in this version.

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
		Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada fleet by selecting the smallest and most fuel-efficient vehicle to meet operational requirements, keeping vehicles properly maintained, and developing fleet infrastructure (e.g. charging stations). • Undertake a feasibility study regarding the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations at the Public Health Agency of	operation or switch to less GHG intensive sources of fuels will contribute to GHG reductions.	Public Health Agency of Canada fleet were 3.06ktCO_2e. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada will reduce GHG emissions from fleet by 42% from the 2005-06 baseline and report on the following: • Overall fuel consumption (LGE) • GHG emissions (KtCO_2e) Note: Health Canada manages the entire fleet under the Shared Services Partnership Agreement; the target under this performance indicator will be reported by Health Canada. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, a	Property Services

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
		Canada-owned buildings.		feasibility study on the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations at the Public Health Agency of Canada-owned buildings will be completed. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, 90% of vehicles purchased will be right-sized for operational needs and the most fuel efficient vehicle in their class available at the time of purchase and/or are an alternative-fuel vehicle. Note: The 90% is a maintenance target, since results are subject to fluctuation, due to unforeseen operational requirements. **Performance Indicator** Going forward, 100% of new executive vehicle purchases	

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
				will be zero-emission or hybrid. **Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, review the applicability of fleet management technologies, such as telematics, to collect and analyze vehicle usage.	
	Support the transition to a low-carbon economy through green procurement	Promote environmental sustainability by integrating environmental performance considerations into departmental procurement process, including planning, acquisition, use and disposal, and ensuring there is the necessary training and awareness to	Green procurement incorporates environmental considerations into purchasing decisions and is expected to motivate suppliers to green their goods, services and supply chain. GHG reductions are one area of consideration in green procurement.	By March 31, 2019, 100% of specialists in procurement and materiel management will have completed the Canada School of Public Service green procurement course or equivalent, or have included it in their learning plan for completion within a year. By March, 31, 2019, 100% of performance evaluations for procurement and materiel management managers will continue to include a discussion about	Internal Services

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
		support green procurement.		how they supported and contributed to the Department's green procurement practices. By March 31, 2019, 80% of office supply purchases will continue to include criteria to reduce the environmental impact associated with the production, acquisition, use, and/or disposal of the supplies. By March 31, 2019, 92% of information technology hardware purchases will continue to include criteria to reduce the environmental impact associated with the production, acquisition, use, and/or disposal of the equipment. Note: this is done is conjunction with Shared Services Canada as the IT	

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
				procurement authority.	
	Promote sustainable travel practices	Encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable work practices.	Increased awareness about sustainable work practices could help to reduce the amount of GHG emissions produced by staff activities (e.g. encourage employees to consider less GHG intensive modes of transportation for business travel).	**Performance Indicator** By March 31, 2019, four outreach or communication activities about sustainable workplace operations including travel practices.	Internal Service 8 (IS8) – Real Property Services
	Understand climate change impacts and build resilience	Review assets (buildings, fleet) to ensure that sources of GHG emissions are inventoried and that any impacts to climate change are quantified.	Factoring climate variability and change into policy, programs, and operations is one of the most important ways the government can adapt to a changing	**Performance Indicator** Assets (buildings and fleet) will continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that sources of GHG emissions are tracked and impacts to climate change are quantified. In 2018–19 there will be a particular	Internal Service 8 (IS8) – Real Property Services

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
			climate and is consistent with the government's risk management approach of enhancing the protection of public assets and resources and strengthening planning and decision-making.	focus on defining parameters for metrics (in addition to buildings and fleet) with other federal departments to allow for comparability.	

Additional departmental sustainable development activities and initiatives

As described below, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is implementing a suite of activities that contribute to low-carbon government targets:

- In 2012, Health Canada and PHAC created the Health Portfolio Shared Services Partnership through which PHAC relies on Health Canada to fulfil functions related to greening government operations. Under the Shared Services Partnership, Health Canada and PHAC have jointly established a Fleet Management Standard that includes green procurement and environmentally responsible operational requirements. Fleet emission targets are described in the above table (please see: Contributing Action "Modernize Our Fleet").
- Under the Shared Services Partnership, PHAC will continue to conduct annual drinking water audits to identify opportunities to improve water management practices.
- Under the Shared Services Partnership, the collection, diversion and disposal of workplace waste in PHAC crown-owned buildings will continue to be managed in an environmentally responsible manner. This is an ongoing activity.

Low-Carbon Government FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
• PHAC has a Sustainable Workplace Operations Community of Practice that serves as a forum for employees to share ideas, discuss and collaborate on activities, best practices, and initiatives that promote a greener environment and support sustainable workplace operations. These actions will contribute to decreased GHG emissions. For targets relating to this activity please see the Corresponding Departmental Action "Encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable work practices" for further details.					

Effective Action on Climate Change: A low-carbon economy contributes to limiting global average temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius and supports efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius
Responsible Minister: Minister of Environment and Climate Change; supported by a whole-of-government approach to implementation

Effective Action on Climate Change FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
By 2030, reduce Canada's total GHG emissions by 30%, relative to 2005 emission levels.	Develop a solid base of scientific research and analysis on climate change	Contribute to the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (specifically sub-theme 4.3.1 – Addressing climate change-related health risks) by developing and implementing a new Infectious Disease and Climate Change (IDCC) program, which includes a Grants and Contributions Fund, and reduces the risks associated with climate-driven	Implement the Infectious Disease and Climate Change (IDCC) program which intends to address the impact of climate change on human health by building and increasing access to infectious disease-based evidence, education and awareness. The focus will be on preparing for and protecting Canadians from climate-driven infectious diseases that are zoonotic	**Starting point:** Note: Starting points will be established within the next 2 years **Target(s)/performance indicator(s):** (Medium Term Indicators – 3-5 years) Number of collaborations with organizations, including the Métis Nation, on climate change and emerging infectious diseases. Number of new/enhanced systems and/or tools.	Program Alignment Architecture (PAA): Sub Sub-Activity 1.2.1.3: Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Effective Action on Climate Change FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
		infectious diseases.	(diseases that can be transmitted from animals and insects to humans), foodborne or water-borne.		

Clean Drinking Water: All Canadians have access to safe drinking water and, in particular, the significant challenges Indigenous communities face are addressed
Responsible Minister: Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Clean Drinking Water FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
By March 31, 2019, 60% and by March 31, 2021 100% of the long-term drinking water advisories affecting First Nation drinking water systems financially supported by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada are to be resolved.	Use regulations to ensure clean drinking water	Implement "Potable Water on Board Trains, Vessels, Aircraft and Buses Regulations" (Potable Water Regulations) including conducting inspections and assessments on international and interprovincial airplanes, trains, cruise ships, ferries and buses to protect the health and safety of the travelling public, ensuring that critical violations are mitigated in a timely manner.	This action corresponds to the overall FSDS goal of clean drinking water for all Canadians, and is not specifically related to First Nations drinking water. The implementation of Potable Water Regulations will ensure that passenger transportation operators are compliant with the regulations and the water on their transport is safe for travelling public	**Starting point:** The percentage of inspected passenger transportation operators that met public health requirements in fiscal year 2013–14 was 88%. **Target(s)/performance indicator(s):** Percentage of inspected passenger transportation operators that meet public health requirements.	Program Alignment Architecture (PAA): Sub-Program 1.3.2 Border Health Security.

Clean Drinking Water FSDS target(s)	FSDS Contributing Action(s)	Corresponding departmental action(s)	Contribution by each departmental action to the FSDS goal and target	Starting point(s) where available, and your choice of performance indicators for departmental actions	Program(s) in which the departmental actions will occur
			consumption.		

Section 4: Integrating Sustainable Development

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process serves as the strategic platform for the department to integrate sustainable development and environmental considerations into policy, plan and program development.

PHAC will continue to advance compliance with the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Programs Proposals (Cabinet Directive). PHAC conducts SEAs on policy, plan, or program proposals that meet the requirements set out in the Cabinet Directive. PHAC will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its SEA process. A SEA for policy, plan or program proposals include an analysis of the potential effects of the given proposal on the environment, including on FSDS goals and targets. The SEA process also includes early integration of environmental considerations in proposal development cycle.

PHAC's Director General Sustainable Development Champion (SD Champion) and the Sustainable Development Office (SDO) play a key leadership role in promoting and communicating sustainable development principles within the Department, as well as advancing the integration of environmental considerations and FSDS and DSDS commitments in PHAC policies, programs, and plans. The SD Champion and the SDO engage in outreach to senior management and employees to promote advancement of sustainable development commitments, to support compliance with the Cabinet Directive, and to build awareness and capacity in the application of sustainable development principles into policy and program development and planning processes.

To strengthen the department's SEA practices and sustain compliance with the Cabinet Directive, PHAC will continue to provide enterprise policy and operational guidance on SEA; support training for all staff on SEA requirements; and develop and disseminate SEA templates and tools. Employees are encouraged to incorporate SEA training opportunities into their annual learning plans. PHAC will maintain its dedicated Intranet space for sustainable development and SEA information, which is accessible to all employees.

PHAC will continue to report on its annual SEA compliance through the Departmental Results Report.

Public statements on the results of PHAC's assessments are made public when an initiative that has undergone a detailed SEA is announced (see here). The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental effects, including the impacts on achieving the FSDS goals and targets, of the approved policy, plan or program have been

considered during proposal development and decision making.